

# Manufacturing Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
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## What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

### Missouri Numbers:



**9,298 Employers**



**289,337 Workers**



**\$64,407 Average Wage**

### Why Have a Career in Manufacturing?

Manufacturing creates the products people need and want. From clothing to computers, almost everything we touch throughout the day is manufactured. Manufacturing represents 12.7 percent of total private sector employment in Missouri, employing 289,337 workers across 9,298 businesses in 2020. Employment in Manufacturing has been steadily growing, increasing by 2.06 percent per year from 2015 to 2020.

Missouri has high employment concentrations in Manufacturing, particularly in Leather & Allied Products, as well as Transportation Equipment. Wages in Manufacturing averaged \$64,407 in 2020, higher than the \$54,801 state average for all industries.

Manufacturing encourages creativity and analytical thinking, an opportunity for a meaningful and rewarding career with good pay and advancement in Production, Business Operations, and Engineering and Maintenance.

### Know the Basics

The Manufacturing Industry refers to material and product producers and the industries that support them. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations, including Manufacturing occupations. Manufacturing jobs can revolve around shifts and production quotas so dependability, along with being flexible when the situation demands, is a valued characteristic. Manufacturing careers can involve interactions with customers so customer service skills, such as being able to talk about the benefits of a product or service, or accept criticism as a professional company representative, are important. Safety issues and quality control are also a critical part of this industry, so attention to details and continuous learning are necessary.

### Skills needed for Success:

Manufacturing has a set of industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in this industry. Some of the skills needed for success in the manufacturing industry include manufacturing process design, development, maintenance, repair, knowledge of and compliance with government regulations, as well as the ability to adapt and consider new ways of doing things.

### Who's Hiring in Missouri?

**The Boeing Company**  
**Bayer Corporation**  
**Burns & McDonnell**  
**Nestle USA**  
**Tyson Foods**



## Production

## Business Operations & Sales

## Engineering & Maintenance

### Now

#### Short-Term On-the-Job Training

**Helpers-Production Workers**  
Entry: \$25,930; Average: \$31,420

**Customer Service Reps.**  
Entry: \$28,850; Average: \$36,580

**Helpers-Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Workers**  
Entry: \$26,890; Average: \$41,060

**Certificates:** Forklift Operator Certification

**Certificates:** Business Administration

**Certificates:** Industrial Maintenance

### Next

#### Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

**Machine Operators**  
Entry: \$22-\$44K; Average: \$25-\$59K

**Executive Administrative Assistants**  
Entry: \$39,100; Average: \$53,750

**Industrial Machinery Mechanics**  
Entry: \$44,710; Average: \$55,480

**First-Line Supervisors of Production Workers**  
Entry: \$45,300; Average: \$61,220

**Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing**  
Entry: \$42,440; Average: \$71,670

**Mechanical Drafter**  
Entry: \$44,760; Average: \$59,220

**CNC Programmers**  
Entry: \$49,290; Average: \$64,540

**Industrial Engineering Techs**  
Entry: \$43,740; Average: \$59,080

**Certificates:** Forklift Operator, Machine Operator, CNC Machinist Technology

**Degrees:** Business Administration & Management

**Degrees:** Engineering  
**Certificates:** Industrial Maintenance, CAD Certificate

### Later

#### Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

**Industrial Production Managers**  
Entry: \$80,440; Average: \$109,430

**General Operations Managers**  
Entry: \$53,030; Average: \$101,610

**Mechanical Engineers**  
Entry: \$69,040; Average: \$87,400

**Sales Managers**  
Entry: \$95,370; Average: \$145,630

**Electrical Engineers**  
Entry: \$77,960; Average: \$103,420

**Purchasing Agents**  
Entry: \$44,980; Average: \$65,710

**Industrial Engineers**  
Entry: \$69,380; Average: \$89,970

**Degrees:** Engineering, Business Administration & Management

**Degrees:** Business Administration & Management, Marketing, Engineering, Logistics

**Degrees:** Engineering

#### Sources:

EMSI Burning Glass Technologies Labor/Insight™ tool  
Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse  
2020 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Top employers data is based on 2021 online job ads



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